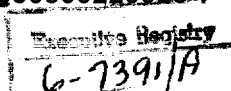


SECRET
Security 2-288767



MAR 31 1956

OGC Has Reviewed

The Honorable
The Attorney General
Department of Justice
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Attorney General:

With your memorandum of 4 March 1955 you sent me a copy of your letter which the President approved concerning improvements in the operating practices under the Employee Security Program. We have recently reviewed the practices of this Agency in connection with that Program and believe that we have been complying fully with the seven specific points set forth in your letter to the President.

On 27 January 1955, Mr. William F. Thompkins, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Internal Security Division, Department of Justice, held a meeting of all General Counsels of the departments and agencies to discuss the conduct of the Employee Security Program. At that time he stated his opinion that after completing review of cases investigated under prior loyalty programs and the completion of the investigation of all employees occupying sensitive positions the Program would become concerned with applicant cases which could be handled on a current basis. In the same vein, your letter of 4 March to the President stated at the end of the fourth paragraph, "After these two phases have been completed, the cases of applicants for jobs and probationary new employees will be the principal concern of the security program."

I should like to express to you my firm belief that a program based solely on the original investigation of applicants and probationary new employees would give a false sense of security, particularly in agencies or components normally dealing with highly classified information. In the field of security there is a continuous development of new information by the many security organizations. Frequently

this information has a bearing on employees in the Government or upon their present or former associates. It has been the experience of this Agency that such information does develop, and, accordingly, we have carried out a policy for the continuous review of the security records of employees. Routine inquiries have produced new information on activities of employees which gives rise to serious security considerations. Reinvestigations and special investigations are conducted where warranted or where an area of doubt has developed. Derogatory information on employees who have served in sensitive assignments for a considerable length of time is obviously greater cause for concern than similar information in the case of applicants.

In the Central Intelligence Agency we consider the security files of all of our employees to be "alive." This seems so important to me that I thought I should like to call it to your attention for whatever action you may deem appropriate.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED
Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/SEC/RB:

Rewritten: DD/S:LKW:laq

Distribution:

- 0 & 1 - Addressee
- 1 - General Counsel
- 1 - Director of Security w/basic
- 2 - DCI
- 2 - DD/S

CONCUR:

15/
L. K. WHITE
Deputy Director
(Support)